

Section 4. WINDS AND TEMPERATURE ALOFT FORECAST (FD)

9-4-1. GENERAL

Winds and Temperature Aloft Forecasts (FD) are computer-prepared and issued by the NMC at Suitland, Maryland. The forecasts are valid 6 (FD1/8), 12 (FD2/9), and 24 (FD3/10) hours after the observation date/times of 0000Z and 1200Z upon which they are based. An unscheduled amendment to an FD may be prepared and issued by a WSFO.

9-4-2. LEVELS FORECAST

Dependent upon station elevation, FD1/2/3 wind forecasts are issued for the following levels: 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, 34, and 39 thousand foot levels. The first level for which a wind forecast is issued is 1,500 feet or more above the station elevation. Temperature is forecast for all wind levels, except the 3,000 foot level, that are 2,500 feet or more above the station. The minus signs are deleted preceding the temperatures at the 30, 34, and 39 thousand foot levels. FD8/9/10 are for the 45,000 and 53,000 foot levels. They are not normally disseminated on Service A, but are available on request/reply.

9-4-3. SCHEDULES

Winds/Temperature Aloft Forecast Schedules

Type	Base Data Time	Valid for	For use (period)
FD1/8	0000Z	0600Z	0500-0900Z
FD2/9	0000Z	1200Z	0900-1800Z
FD3/10	0000Z	0000Z	1800-0500Z
FD1/8	1200Z	1800Z	1700-2100Z
FD2/9	1200Z	0000Z	2100-0600Z
FD3/10	1200Z	1200Z	0600-1700Z

FIG 9-4-1

9-4-4. DISTRIBUTION

All FD's are transmitted to the WMSC by NMC. Distribution by the WMSC is accomplished in accordance with established program requirements. Amended FD data prepared and entered by a WSFO is distributed to the same users as the original product prepared by NMC.